Application No. 10/043,831
Amendment Dated December 3, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated July 2, 2003

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Claims 1-21 are cancelled without prejudice, Claim 22 is amended and Claims 23-33 have been added. Claims 22 and 23-33 are pending. It should be understood that Claims 1-21 have been canceled only to expedite the prosecution of this application and their cancellation should not be interpreted as an admission that they are not patentable. To the contrary, these canceled claims are believed to be patentable and will be the subject of a continuing application to be filed shortly.

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the allowance of Claim 22. Applicants have further amended the claim to include the words "the steps of" as this is a method claim. Furthermore, Applicants have deleted the phrase "low coefficient of thermal expansion" to be consistent with the Examiner's comments with regard to original Claims 1-18 and 20-21.

New Claims 23-26 correspond to originally-filed Claims 6-9, with the addition of the word "thermoset" in the second line of Claims 23 and 26 and with the addition of the phrase "and skins extend across opposed faces of said framework" in the fourth/fifth line of Claims 23/26. The Examiner indicated that Claims 6-9 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. To that end, the limitations of originally-filed Claim 1, as well as the limitations of Claim 6, are included in new Claim 23. Claim 24 corresponds to originally-filed Claim 7. Claim 25 corresponds to originally-filed Claim 8. Claim 26 corresponds to Claim 9 but rewritten as an

independent claim. Thus, for all of these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 23-26 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 27 and 28 correspond to originally-filed Claim 12 but which are now dependent upon amended Claims 23 and 26, respectively, and which are patentable for the same reasons.

Claims 29 and 30 correspond to originally-filed Claim 13 but which are now dependent upon amended Claims 23 and 26, respectively, and which are patentable for the same reasons.

Claims 31 and 32 correspond to originally-filed Claim 14 but which are now ultimately dependent upon amended Claims 23 and 26, respectively, and which are patentable for the same reasons.

Claim 33 is a new claim directed to one of the lengths that form the framework as disclosed in the present application.

Applicants also wish to make of record five references that were uncovered in a corresponding European patent application, EP 02 25 0175. To that end, a supplemental Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(c)(2) is enclosed herewith along with copies of the same.

Applicants also direct the Examiner's attention to one of the references cited in the PTO-Form 892, page 2 of 2 in which the U.S. patent number for Governale is incorrectly shown. The correct patent number for Governale is 4,114,319.

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For at least the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified

application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the

claims are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the

application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants'

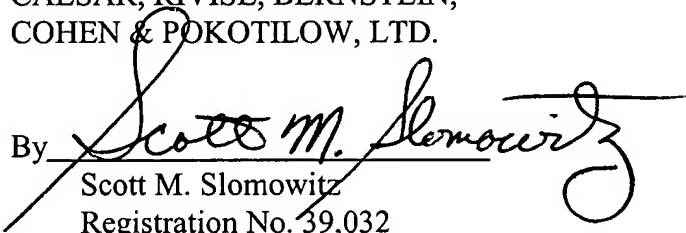undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

CAESAR, RIVISE, BERNSTEIN,
COHEN & POKOTILOW, LTD.

December 3, 2003

By _____

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Please charge or credit our Account
No. 03-0075 as necessary to effect
entry and/or ensure consideration of
this submission.

Page 8 of 8